

## Message Text

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ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 PA-01 USIE-00  
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FM USDEL GRENADA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0032

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 GRENADA 0030

FOR S/PRS FOR CARTER

FROM USDEL OASGA

USOAS DEL 16

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OAS, GJ

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR TODMAN'S PRESS BACKGROUNDER, JUNE 16

FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF AMBASSADOR TODMAN'S PRESS  
BACKGROUNDER JUNE 16 PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FROM GRENADA.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS TERENCE TODMAN  
PRESS BACKGROUNDER - JUNE 16, 1977, 12 NOON:

Q: SO YOU HAD THE HEAVIES THIS MORNING?

A: TODMAN - I WOULD NOT CHARACTERIZE THEM THAT WAY.

Q: WELL WHO DID YOU HAVE?

A: I HAVE TO LOOK AT MY PROGRAM, CAN'T TELL.

THEY HAD ARGENTINA, URUGUAY, NICARAGUA AND THE DOMINICAN  
REPUBLIC.

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Q: IT IS SAID THAT THE DOMINICAN WENT PRETTY HEAVY.

A: THEY HAVE MORE PROBLEMS IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD SURELY  
THAN SOME OF THE OTHER COUNTRIES DO.

Q: ON ARGENTINA, MR AMBASSADOR, WAS THE US AID CUT-OFF

DISCUSSED IN ANY WAY? DID THE ARGENTINES EXPRESS ANY CONCERN ABOUT THIS?

A: WE TALKED GENERALLY ABOUT OUR POLICY ON ECONOMIC AID TO COUNTRIES IN WHICH THERE ARE HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS. WE DID NOT SPEAK OF THE CUT-OFF OF MILITARY AID.

Q: I STARETED TO ASK A QUESTION OF THE SECRETARY THIS MORNING, AND I PROBABLY DID NOT SY IT VERY CLEARLY, BUT I HAVE HEARD THAT THE US IS NOT PLANNING TO SIGN THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT FROM LAST YEAR WITH ARGENTINA BEFORE THE DEADLINE IN OCTOBER. IS THAT TRUE?

A: WE HAVE SAID THAT WE WOULD WAIT TO SEE THE WAY THE SITUATION DEVELOPED BEFORE TAKING THE FINAL DECISION ON THE SIGNING.

Q: YOU ARE SAYING THAT THE DECISION HAS NOT BEEN MADE.

A. THE DECISION HAS NOT BEEN MADE, NO.

Q: YOU SAW YESTERDAY THE DECLARATION FROM ARENTINA LINKING TERRORISM AND HUMAN RIGHTS. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON IT?

A: THEY MAKE A CASE AS THEY ALWAYS DO ABOUT THE VERY DIFFICULT SITUATION THAT THEY FACE INTERNALLY. OUR POSITION CONTINUES TO BE THAT WE DON'S THINK THAT THE WAY TO FIGHT TERRORISM IS WITH TERRORISM. SO WE HAVE A DIFFERENCE.

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Q: HAS THERE BEEN AN APPEAL ON THE PART OF THE SECRETARY FOR THE ARGENTIENS TO RELEASE ANY PRISONERS OR RELEASE A LIST OF THOSE BEING HELD?

A: WE DID NOT GET INTO SPECIFICS. WHAT WE DID AGREE WAS THAT WE WOULD EXCHANGE INFORMATION AND WORK TOGETHER IN THIS WHOLE AREA OF HUMAN RIGHTS. BECAUSE OUR BASIC CONCERN IS TO SEE AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE SITUATION, AND THE ARGENTINES INSIST THAT THIS IS WHAT THEY WANT ALSO.

Q: THE SECRETARY SAID THIS MORNING THAT THERE WAS AN IMPROVEMENT ON THE PARTSO OF SOME NATIONS WHICH HE DECLINED TO NAME. DO YOU THINK THAT SINCE ARGENTINA IN PARTICULAR (COMMENTS FROM SOMEONE ELSE - NOT CLEAR) BUT MY QUESTION WAS SINCE THE UNITED STATED DID SPECIFICALLY SINGLE OUT ARGENTINA IN THE AID CUT BACK, COULD NOT ARGENTINA BE SINGLED OUT AGAIN OR SAY WHETER OR NOT THE SITUATION HAS IMPROVED?

A: YOU KNOW ONCE THE SECRETARY DECIDED THAT IS THE POSITION

HE IS GOINT TO TAKE, I AM CERTAINLY GOING TO FOLLOW THAT.

Q: IS THERE ANY WAY OF COMING UP WITH WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN AT THIS MEETING. IT LOOKS LIKE THEY ARE GOING TO BRING OUT TWO RESOLUTIONS: ONE RESOLUTION OF WHICH THE OUTLINE IS LIKE ARGENTINA AND URUGUAY PROPOSE-THE ONE ON TERRORISM; AND COLOMBIA THIS MORNING PROPOSED ONE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND STRENGTHENING THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. IS THERE ANY EFFORT ON THE PART OF THE US TO TRY AND PUSH ONE UP AND THE OTHER DOWN?

A: NO, NO, NON, WE ARE NOT GOING TO LEAD ANY KIND OF BATTLES IN THIS REGARD. WE HAVE NO PROBLEMS WITH THE COMDEMNATION OF TERRORISM. WE THINK IT IS IMPORTANT THAT TERRORISM BE COMBATTED.

Q: SO THE TWO RESOLUTIONS WILL NOT MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE?

A: NO, NOT TO US. WE HAVE TO...  
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Q: HOW DO YOU DO IT TOGETHER?

A: OBVIOUSLY WE HAVE TO LOOK AT THE TEXT OF THE RESOLUTIONS TO MAKE DETERMINATIONS ON THE BASIS OF THE ACTUAL LANGUAGE BECAUSE IT IS ONE THING TO TALK ABOUT THE GENERAL SUBJECT, IT IS ANOTHER THING TO SEE HOW THEY WORD IT. I SPENT ENOUGH TIME IN THE UNITED NATIONS TO KNOW THAT SOMETIMES THE CHAGE OF THE ARTICLE, JUST THE ARTICLE, GIVES YOU A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT RESOLUTION. SO WE ARE AGAINST TERRORISM OBVIOUSLY. WE ARE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, BUT YOU COULD WRITE A RESOLUTION IN SUCH A WAY THAT IT GOES EXACTLY CONTRARY TO THE SENSE, SPIRIT OF WHAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT. THE CRITICAL THING IS GOING TO BE LOOKING AT THE ESACT TEXT OF THE RESOLUTION OR RESOLUTIONS AS PRESENTED AND SEEING HOW THIS FITS WITH THE GENERAL POLICY.

Q: DISAPPEARANCES ARE GOING ON IN ARGENTINA. WHAY YOU ARE WITHOLDING YOUR SIGNATURE ON IS A TRAINING PROGRAM FOR OFFICERS AND THE PIPELINE AID. IS THAT CORRECT?

A: NO, NO, NO, THE US IS NOT CUTTING OFF PIPELINE AID. PIPELINE AID PRESUMABLY IS SOMETHING THAT HAS BEEN APPROVED ALREADY AND JUST HASN'T BEEN SHIPPED, AND LEGALLY I AM NOT SURE OF ANYTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT THAT. BUT WE HAVE THE PROGRAM FOR THIS FISCAL YEAR WHICH HAS NOT YET BEEN SIGNED. AND THAT IS WHERE WE ARE NOT CERTAIN.

Q: AN ARGENTINA HAS REFUSED THAT AID HAVEN'T THEY? WE ARE TALING ABOUT '78 NOW.

A: NO, NO, WE ARE TALKING ABOUT '77.

Q: ALL THESE DISCUSSIONS YOU HAVE HAD SPECIFICALLY ABOUT  
RESOLUTIONS, COLOMBIA DID NOT MENTION TO YOU THAT...

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A: NO, NO, RESOLUTIONS ARE GOING TO BE DEVELOPED NOW COMING  
OUT OF THE SENSE OF THE STATEMENT MADE BY THE FOREIGN  
MINISTERS AND PEOPLE ARE NOW IN THE PROCESS OF BEGINNING TO  
DRAFT THESE THINGS. WE WILL HAVE OUR AMBASSADOR MCGEE HERE  
AS HEAD OF THE DELEGATION AND BOB WHITE AND THE WHOLE TEAM,  
AND THEY WILL BE LOOKING AT TEXTS AND COMMUNICATING WITH  
US AND THEN WE WILL BE REACTING TO WHAT COMES UP. THE DISCUSSIONS  
WERE NOT ON RESOLUTIONS, NO ON SPECIFICS.

Q: ARE YOU LEAVING WITH THE SECRETARY?

A: YES WE ARE LEAVING SHORTLY.

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O 171732Z JUN 77

FM USDEL GRENADA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0033

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 GRENADA 0030

FOR S/PRS FOR CARTER

FROM USDEL OASGA

USOAS DEL 16

Q: MR DODMAN, ON URUGUAY, I UNDERSTAND THAT SEC VANCE HAD

EXPRESSED IN A LETTER TO CONGRESSMAN KOCH CONCERN ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THAT COUNTRY. WAS THIS CONCERN EXPRESSED TODAY IN THE MEETING WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER?

A: E TALKED ONCE AGAIN ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS. HUMAN RIGHTS HAS BEEN THE TOPIC OF ALL OF THE CONVERSATIONS.

Q: BUT NO CONCERN WAS EXPRESSED BY THE CONVERSATION?

A: WE TALKED ABOUT THE WHOLE AREA OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

Q: WHAT IDEALLY WOULD BE THE BEST...I MEAN WHAT WOULD YOU LOOK FOR? ONE SINGLE RESOLUTION?

A: I THINK THE FACT THAT YOU HAVE A GREATER APPRECIATION OF THE BROAD NATURE OF OUR CONCERNS FOR THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS; THE FACT THAT YOU HAVE EVEN THOSE WHO TAKE OPPOSITE POSITIONS INSISTING VERY STRONGLY THAT THEY ARE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEY HAVE GOT TO GET THAT, GETTING THAT ON THE RECORD AGAIN IN THE CASE OF EVEN THE MOST HARDLINERS, AS YOU CALL THEM, IS ALREADY AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD. THE QUESTION OF WORKING OUT A PARTICULAR RESOLUTION IS GOING TO DEPEND ON WHAT KIND OF COMBINATION WE MAKE. YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS WITH ANY RESOLUTION, YOU OFTEN FALL TO, IF NOT THE LOWEST COMMON DENOMINATOR, AT LEAST A FAIRLY LOW ONE, IN ORDER TO BRING THE MAJORITY TOGETHER WITH YOU. SO IT IS HARD TO SAY, BUT JUST THE EXERCISE, JUST THE FACT OF GETTING THIS THING OUT, RE-AWAKENING THE CONSCIOUSNESS, GETTING SOME OF THESE GOVERNMENTS TO REAFFIRM THEIR COMMITMENTS TO IT, I THINK IS IN ITSELF REALLY VERY POSITIVE.

Q: DO YOU BELIEVE ONE OF THE BIG THINGS IN THIS MEETING, ANYWAY IN THE MEETINGS THE SECRETARY WAS HAVING WAS TO CONVINCE THESE PEOPLE OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE US INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS?

A: I THINK THAT CERTAINLY THE MEETINGS AND HIS STATEMENT, REAFFIRMED THAT. WE WERE PLANNING TO CONVINCE THEM, BUT THERE WAS NO GIVE.

Q: YOU DON'T THINK SOME OF THESE GUYS SHOULD BE PUT ON THE RACK TO CONVINCE THEM?

A: (LAUGHTER) YOU ARE TELLING ME THAT TO FIGHT TERRORISM YOU FIGHT THE OPPOSITION WITH A SQUEEZE. I THINK THEY UNDERSTAND. I REALLY DO.

Q: HAVE YOU SEEN ANY CHANGE IN THEIR ATTITUDE, HAVE THEY INDICATED ANY SPECIFIC STEPS THAT THEY MIGHT TAKE TO IMPROVE THE

HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CERTAIN COUNTRIES?

A: WE HAVE A LOT OF PEOPLE TELL US ABOUT THEIR AGREEMENT WITH OUR PRESENTATION AND WITH OUR POSITION.

Q: HOW ABOUT THE MEETING YESTERDAY, MR AMBASSADOR WITH THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEXICAN FOREIGN MINISTER?

A: VERY GOOD. THAT COVERED A BROAD RANGE OF SUBJECTS INCLUDING NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES BECAUSE HE HAD JUST COME BACK FROM CIEC WHERE HE AND THE SECRETARY HAD MET BEFORE. THERE WAS A LOT OF FOCUS IN THIS WHOLE AREA OF "WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE" IN TERMS OF DEVELOPING FURTHER COOPERATION, IN TERMS OF MEETING SOME OF THE NEEDS OF THE LESS INVOLVED COUNTRIES.

Q: THE WHOLE NORTH-SOUTH ISSUE.

A: A LOT OF FOCUS ON THAT.

Q: YOU ALSO DISCUSSED BILATERAL ISSUES?

A: OH, YES, AND YOU KNOW WE JUST GOT THROUGH HOLDING A MEETING IN THE US IN WHICH WE SET UP SEPARATE COMMISSIONS AND WE GOT VARIOUS SUB-GROUPS WORKING ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF OUR RELATIONS. AT ANY OPPORTUNITY THAT THE TWO OF THEM HAVE TO MEET, WE'LL START LOOKING WHERE WE ARE GOING AND HOW IT IS GOING TO DEVELOP.

Q: HOW ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CUBA AND THE US. HAVE ANY COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE FACT THAT YOU ARE IN THE PROCESS OF MOBILIZING TIES WITH CUBA?

A: YES. WE TALKED ABOUT CUBA TO A NUMBER OF THEM. SEVERAL OF THEM JUST ASKED THAT WE BE CAREFUL BECAUSE CUBA WAS STILL IN THE PROCESS OF SUPPORTING GUERRILLA OR OPPOSITION MOVEMENTS WITHIN THEIR COUNTRIES.

Q: CAN YOU GIVE NAMES?

A: I WOULD RATHER NOT, BUT CERTAINLY NICARAGUA.

Q: BUT THE POSITION OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THIS IS NOT SO, IN FACT THAT THERE IS NO SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT  
BY CUBA TO THE LATIN AMERICAN GUERRILLA MOVEMENT.

A: WELL WE HAVEN' GOTTEN INTO THE QUESTION OF THE EXTEND OF THE  
SUPPORT. AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED, IT IS IMPORTANT FOR US  
TO BE ABLE TO HAVE A PRESENCE IN CUBA IN ORDER TO KEEP OURSELVES  
INFORMED ON WHAT IS HAPPENING THERE AND TO HAVE A CHANNEL OF  
COMMUNICATION TO TALK ABOUT THE MANY ISSUES SEPARATING US.  
OBVIOUSLY WE ARE NOT GOING TO DO ANYTHING THAT WILL AFFECT  
NEGATIVELY THE INTEREST OF THE COUNTRIES WITH WHICH WE ARE  
FRIENDLY.

Q: THE ARGENTINES SEEM TO BE PLEASED THIS MORNING WITH THE RESULTS  
OF THEIR MEETING AND MADE A POINT OF SAYING THAT COMPARED TO  
SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH CHILE, WHICH THEY CHARACTERIZED AS  
INCREDIBLE, THEY WERE QUITE PROUD OF THEMSELVES THAT IT HAD GONE  
WELL WITH THEM. WOULD YOU MAKE THAT CHARACTERIZATION?

A: I THINK IT WAS A GOOD MEETING. THE ARGENTINES WERE VERY  
FORTHCOMING IN TERMS OF THINGS THAT THEY ARE DOING TO IMPROVE  
THE SITUATION AND YOU HAVE SEEN FROM THE NEWS RECENTLY THAT  
THEY HAVE TAKEN A NUMBER OF STEPS-IN BOTH DIRECTION, BUT SOME  
IN THE OTHER DIRECTION. WE FOUND THE MEETING GOOD. I THINK THE  
FACT THAT WE WILL BE CONTINUING TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION  
AND TO WORK TOGETHER FOR PROMOTIONS, SOMETHING THAT THEY FOUND  
SATISFYING BECAUSE IT MEANS THEY WILL BE ABLE TO KEEP US  
INFORMED ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING.

Q: HOW LONG WILL YOU BE IN TRINIDAD?

A: ONE DAY-WE ARE LEAVING TOMORROW MORNING.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.  
MCGEE

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## Message Attributes

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